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STAT

D.C. Park Police Admit Role in CIA Training

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, May 29 (News Bureau)—United States Park Police officials acknowledged today that they helped train Central Intelligence Agency agents in the streets of the nation's capital.

The News reported last week that park policemen who guard tourist attractions had begun a secret operation in February, at the urging of the CIA, to determine if spies in training could withstand stress. The CIA trainees were "arrested" by police who "discovered" drugs on them. The object was to determine if the trainees would break down and admit they were agents.

Park Police and Interior Department officials then refused to admit the existence of the program.

Freedom of Info Request

But Park Police Chief Jerry Wells, replying today to a freedom of information request filed by The News, released a CIA-Interior agreement signed last Jan. 14 that set up the program. The operation — even National Park Service, director Gary Everhardt was not told about it — was requested by John F. Blake, a CIA deputy director. Interior Undersecretary Kent Frizzell signed the agreement allowing the police to "provide certain assistance" to an agency training program. Blake promised that the CIA would pay for any "incidental

costs." The matter has caused grave concern at the Interior Department. Louis Chruchville, a department spokesman, first said that the Park Police had so many training programs it would be difficult to ferret out any CIA operation. He later contended that he was unable to find any "formal" agreement.

Several Park Police officials argued unsuccessfully against getting involved in the program because of the potential embarrassment if uncovered, sources said.

Meanwhile CIA officials refused to discuss the agreement. It was understood that agency officials felt bound by a law prohibiting CIA employees from revealing anything dealing with "sources and methods" of intelligence gathering. But Interior officials apparently are not bound by that law and decided to release the CIA document.

The document, a two-page letter on CIA stationery signed by Blake, is unclassified and does not give specifics of the training. Interior Department officials were unable to find any of their own papers on the matter, a spokesman said.